

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on October 26 2:30 p.m. to hold its second hearing on Eco-terrorism specifically examining Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty ("SHAC").

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on Nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Habeas Reform: The Streamlined Procedures Act" on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 9 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 226.

Witness List: Seth Waxman, Esq., Former Solicitor General of the United States, Partner, Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr, Washington, DC; Ronald Eisenburg, Esq., Deputy District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia, PA; Stephen Saltzburg, Esq., Wallace and Beverly Woodbury University Professor of Law, George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC; Kent Scheidegger, Esq., Legal Director, Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, Sacramento, CA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 26, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND THE COURTS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Revisiting Proposals to Split the Ninth Circuit: An Inevitable Solution to a Growing Problem" on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Circuit Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Portland, OR; Circuit Judge Richard Tallman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Seattle,

WA; Chief Judge Mary Schroeder U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Phoenix, AZ; and Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena CA.

Panel II: Circuit Judge Andrew Kleinfeld U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Fairbanks, AK; District Judge John Roll, U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Circuit Judge Sidney T. Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Billings, MT; and Chief Judge Emeritus Marilyn Huff, U.S. District Court, Southern District, CA, San Diego, CA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing regarding "Uncollected Taxes: Can We Reduce the \$300 Billion Tax Gap?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Terrorism: Emergency Preparedness," on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Former Senator Slade Gorton, 9/11 Public Discourse Project, Seattle, WA; Wayne Thomas, Vice-President of Homeland Security, Innovative Emergency Management, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA; Henry Renteria, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Mather, CA; Matt Bettenhausen, Director, California Office of Homeland Security, Sacramento, CA; Michael O'Hanlon, Senior Fellow and co-holder of Sydney Stein chair, Foreign Policy Studies Program, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jacob Cilek of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to two fellows in my office, Elizabeth Hoffman and Regan Fitzgerald, during consideration of this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that Matt Ryno of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 370, 371, and 373. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and finally the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robert Joseph Henke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management).

William F. Tuerk, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

Lisette M. Mondello, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

NOMINATION OF LISETTE MONDELLO

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a friend and fellow Texan, Ms. Lisette Mondello, who is being confirmed to be Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is one of the finest and most qualified individuals for this position.

Ms. Mondello has been serving as the senior advisor to the Secretary of Education. This experience is invaluable and has provided exceptional training for the position of Assistant Secretary.

Prior to her position with the Department of Education, Ms. Mondello was the director of communications in my office for 4 years. During that time I valued her counsel and commitment. In fact, her husband Joe Mondello, was my legislative director for several years. Prior to that, she worked for our colleague, Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

Additionally, Ms. Mondello has held several positions in the private sector and with grassroots organizations. These experiences have contributed to an understanding of political and public relations from two distinctive viewpoints. She will bring an enormous wealth of knowledge and understanding to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ms. Mondello received bachelor of arts degree from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. She obtained a Certificate in Finance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

Given Ms. Mondello's rich and diverse background, she is ideally suited